# Evening Telegraph

(SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING,

> No. 108 S. THIRD STREET, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1871.

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS LAW. anti-Penn Squareites yesterday with a defeat at Harrisburg we hope will effectually settle them for the future. The House Committee on Municipal Corporations, which had in charge Mr. Dechert's bill abolishing the Building Commission, listened patiently to the appeals of Mr. Tom Webster, listened interestedly to the flery eloquence of Mr. Smith, and carefully compared the valuable statistics of Mr. Henry C. Lea, and found the whole affair to be much ado about nothing. Mr. H. W. Gray, in a straightforward speech, pricked the anti-Penn Square bladder, and by showing the interested motives and the real aims of the men who were demanding that the Legislature should interfere to defeat the will of the people, let the wind out of it, and then followed a total collapse. The result of Mr. Gray's speech was that the committee determined to report the bill with a negative recommendation, which will effectually kill it, as the Washington Square faction cannot obtain the votes of two-thirds of the members of the House, which are necessary for its consideration. The entire Committee on Municipal Corporations, with the exception of two members, Messrs. Miller and Johnston, voted to report the bill negatively. The names of those who thus respected the plainly expressed wishes of the citizens of Philadelphia were Mooney, Quigley, Griffith, Lamon, Dumbell, Albright, Duffy, McGowen, Thompson, and Hager. These gentlemen have done an essential service to Philadelphia, for they have put a quietus to one of the most discreditable attempts to defeat the popular will ever made in this city, and they have insured the erection on a suitable site of such public buildings as will be creditable to a great and wealthy city such as this is. The interested character of the agitation for the abolition of the Building Commission needs no other demonstration than a glance at the composition of the delegation of anti-Penn Squareites which has been in Harrisburg for the last few days urging the Legislature to reverse its action of last year. Of those gentleman who protest against the irresponsible Building Commission but three are not members of commissions equally irresponsible which were created by the Legislature in the same manner. One of them was the president of the old Building Commission, four are members of the Park Commission, four are trustees of the Girard Estate, and five are on the Bridge Commission. These are certainly not the proper men to protest against the Building Commission on the ground that it was created by the Legislature and not by Councils. In fact, the whole agitation that has been carried on the October election since has nothing but an impudent been and reckless attempt on the part of certain property-holders to prevent the erection of the public buildings at all, unless they could have them in the neighborhood of Sixth and Chesnut streets. They managed to induce the Senate to stultify itself, but the Committee on Municipal Corporations of the House proved an obstruction that could not be surmounted, and the Washington Square delegation were obliged to return to the city with nothing to show for their time, labor, and money. The action of the committee in reporting the bill negatively was doubtless due in a great measure to the eloquent speech of Mr. Gray, who presented the real facts of the case in such a plain and understandable manner that there was no excuse for any other action than that taken. Mr. Gray is entitled to the thanks of his fellow-citizens for his able vindication of the cause of the majority, as expressed at the October election, and the members of the Committee on Municipal Corporations, who aided in the defeat of the Washington Square conspiracy, are also deserving of gratitude for their resistance to the demands of men who would sacrifice the interests of the public for their own

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

selfish ends.

THE water famine of summer before last and the one which was threatened during the prolonged hot spell of last year, awakened much anxiety with regard to the reliability of the means now in use for supplying the city with one of the prime necessities of life. For the city to be left without water in the summer, or even for the water supply to be seriously reduced, would be a calamity of the first magnitude; and the subject of insuring an abundance of water at all seasons, in the face of all prebable contingencies, should have received, ere this, far more attention than it has yet done. A second summer since the water famine is now upon us, and there is no assurance that the works in operation will not prove insufficient just at the time when there is most need that they should be equal to every demand upon them; and if the Chief Engineer obtains the \$2,122,000 he is asking Councils to grant him for the extension of the water works. there is no guarantee that even this large amount will place us out of the reach of danger. In view of all the facts of the case, the proposition of Colonel Barton H. Jenks, in behalf of the Hydrostatic and Hydraulic Company, of which he is President, is entitled to a candid consideration at the hands of the Committee on Water, to whom it was yesterday referred. This company engages to furnish pumps and buildings, and to guarantee a supply of 50,000,000 gallons of water every twenty-four hours, for the sum of \$2,500,000. In cas: Councils should not wish to adopt the prope ler pumps of this company absolutely

makes the additional proposition that the city shall appropriate a sum sufficient for the erection of a single pump at Fairmount or elsewhere, which can be operated by one of the engines now in use, and which the company will guarantee to lift a greater number of pounds of water per hundred pounds of coal than is now done in any of the city works. The pump alluded to is a screw which revolves at a great velocity within a hollow shaft, and its successful performances in the cases in which it has been tried prove it to be an invention of great value. If it will operate upon a large scale with the same effect that it does upon a small one, there can be no doubt as to its superiority to any of the appliances now in use for furnishing the city with water. It will be entirely independent of the weather, and a dry spell will not affect its operations so long as there is any water at all in either of our rivers, and it will therefore ensure a sufficient supply of water at all seasons and obviate all danger of water famines in the future. This pump appears at least to be worthy of a fair trial, and if the proposition of Colonel Jenks is accepted in whole or in part, reliable guarantees should be exacted that this company will fulfil all the conditions of its compact. What the citizens of Philadelphia want is an assurance that water in the utmost abundance shall be furnished to them at all times of the year, but especially during the hot season, and if the propeller pumps can do this economically they should be adopted. Before substituting them for the present system, however, they should be so tested that there will be no doubt whatever about their ability to do all that is claimed for them; and if they will do this, it would be much better to expend our millions upon them than upon the construction of new reservoirs, which the experiences of the past prove may some day fail when it is most important that they should be full.

without giving them a thorough test, Col. Jenks

THE NEW TREATY.

THE new treaty with Great Britain, which THE EVENING TELEGRAPH published yesterday in advance of all its contemporaries, has met with a decidedly favorable reception from the press and the public. In view of the complicated and irritating questions at issue, the huge volumes of correspondence which have been filled by efforts to explain them, and the repeated failures to peacefully adjust them; it cannot be questioned that the High Commission has performed a very difficult and creditable task in devising a mutually satisfactory solution for all old complications. It is neither the desire nor the interest of this country to rush speedily into another war. The greatest boon gained by final victory in the late contest was the assurance that hereafter the nation might live in external as well as internal peace: and as this assurance would be rendered doubly sure by a harmonious settlement with the only foreign nation with whom a dargerous conflict could easily arise, the final ratification of a satisfactory treaty with Great Britain would be the most important and beneficent triumph of American diplomacy. The triumph is, substantially, embodied in the text of the new compact. In its general character, as well as in the details of its provisions, it is dignified and apparently just. It furnishes as complete a recognition of the high rank of this country in the scale of nations, and of the correctness of the principles of international law for which American statesmen have hitherto contended, as could be desired. There is something grateful to our wounded pride in its very tone. It alleges that "her Britannic Majesty has authorized her High Commissioners and Plenipotentiaries to express, in a friendly spirit, the regret felt by her Majesty's Government for the escape, under whatever circumstances, of the Alabama and other vessels from British ports, and for the depredations committed by these vessels." It provides for the creation of a tribunal to decide upon the claims founded on these depredations, which will not only be of a dignified character, but which will be chosen by powers likely to be friendly to us, the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Emperor of Brazil being two the appointees. It concedes the vital point that the rules applied to the assessment of damages shall be based on the exalted standard of the obligations of neutrality for which our Government has hitherto vainly contended. And it appoints Geneva, a city located in a European republic, as the place where the arbitrators of the Alabama claims are to meet. Although Great Britain has grievously wronged us, she makes in these provisions the best atonement that we could reasonably anticipate, and our national reputation would justly suffer if we were to wantonly reject them.

The other subjects embraced in the treaty, although important in themselves, are of minor consequence. If we honestly owe money to British subjects, it ought to be paid, and the commission seems to have been as careful as possible in restricting the number and character of permissible claims against this country. As the bulk of the treaty is conceived in a lofty and magnanimous spirit, we can scarcely believe that it was the intention of either party to weaken its soothing moral effect by interjecting any deceptive clause designed to create new difficulties and dissensions hereafter.

We trust no loopholes have been left for the benefit of the Confederate bondholders of England; that the fishermen of the United States and the New Dominion will be enabled to peacefully and profitably ply their useful vocation; and that the Emperor of Germany will be enabled to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion on the vexed point whether the extreme Northwestern boundary line should be run through the Resario Straits or the Canal

General Grant's motto, when he was a candidate for the Presidency, was "Let us have peace," and the new treaty indicates that he hes assured a long peace with our only dangerous foreign rival.

THE State Legislature has passed finally a bill which, under the innocent title of the Laurel Run Improvement Company, conveys important privileges connected with the purchase of coal mines, and the mining and transportation of coal. The capital stock of the company is to consist of one million of dollars, but it is authorized to increase the amount of stock and to issue bonds to an unlimited amount; and also empowered to "purchase, sell, transport, and mine coal, and to mine and manufacture iron, and to acquire from time to time, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, an unlimited quantity of land, as well as to construct all necessary buildings and fixtures necessary for the purpose of mining and for preparing coal for market, mining and manufacturing iron, and the accommodation of persons engaged" in the said business.

These extensive powers and privileges would, at an earlier period of the history of the State, have excited vigorous hostility; but we are not aware that the bill in question encountered any serious opposition, and, if the Governor signs it, it remains to be seen whether it will become a mere speculative charter, or the base of gigantic coal and ironmining operations.

> NOTICES. "LET US HAVE PEACE"

THE GRAND PEACE OF OUR GERMAN FELLOW-CITIZENS,

ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 1871. ALL PERSONS IN ANY WAY INTERESTED IN THIS,

MAGNIFICENT PAGEANT EVER DESIGNED IN PHILADELPHIA, WILL PLEASE OBSERVE CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

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2d Suggestion .- If you must have a pair of Black Pants, remember you can get them for from \$5 to \$10, warranted the best in town, at WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

ad Suggestion,-You will need White Gloves, and perhaps, a new Cravat. These, and all other Furnishing Goods, are to be had also at WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL.

4th Euggestion .- Waste no money in buying your Clothes, but get good clothing at the very lowest prices, for which you must go to WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL

TO SPECTATORS. Suggestion 1st .- To fully enjoy this grand display you must have on a new Spring Sait from THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE.

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THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE, W. & B.'s OAK HALL. Suggestion 31,-Remember that for men and boys there are no prices so low

as at THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE, W. & B.'s OAK HALL. TO STRANGERS.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see Inside Pages. THE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED HEBREW CHARITIES will hold its second annual meeting on SUNDAY, May 14, at 3 o'clock P. M., in the JULIANNA STREET SYNAGOGUE. The members and contributors are respectfully invited with-N. B .- JULIANNA Street.

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